

REMARKS

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the subject application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

Group I, claim(s) 1-10 and 12, drawn to A method and apparatus for encoding;

Group II, claim(s) 11 and 13, drawn to A method and apparatus for decoding;

Group III, claim(s) 14, drawn to A storage medium;

Group IV, claim(s) 15, drawn to A signal; and

Group V, claim(s) 16, drawn to A computer program; and requires that Applicants elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

In response thereto, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-10 and 12.

It should be noted that the status indicators of claims 11 and 13-16 have been changed to "Withdrawn".

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

by /Edward W. Goodman/
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